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## Care Of the Boar Important In the Raising Of Hogs

IN THE previous papers on hog raising attention was given to the selection of breeds and the demands of different markets. It is the object of this article to point out the essentials of feeding and management of the hogs after a start has been made.

According to Mr. Cottrell's excellent bulletin on Raising Hogs in Colorado, the boar is more than one-half the herd, so far as influence goes. His strength or weakness shows itself in one or several hundred pigs each year, consequently the importance is seen of having him of the right type and of great bodily vigor in order that the offspring may be of a uniformly profitable type and good, early-maturing feeders.

**Cross Breeds Not Dependable.**  
A cross breed boar cannot be depended upon to transmit his qualities to his pigs, no matter how fine an animal he may be. The pigs are apt to inherit the characters of their scrub ancestors, so no farmer can afford to use any but a pure bred sire. The practice of selecting a boar unusually strong where the sows are weak and perhaps weak where they are strong is not to be recommended, for the pigs most easily inherit the weak characteristics of both parents.

**Making Boars Feel at Home.**  
It is best to allow a newly purchased boar to become accustomed to his new home before using. Upon arriving, he should be dipped or washed with a coal tar dip for destroying lice and given the same treatment after ten days. He should be isolated for three weeks at a safe distance from other hogs and if found free from disease at the end of that time he may be quartered near them. Dipping and quarantine is good for all new purchases brought to the farm and prevents the introduction of disease.

The boar pig should be given food that will stimulate his growth until he reaches full, mature weight. A mixture of any two or more of the following grains will answer the purpose: Corn, barley, or milo maize, with wheat, peas, or shorts. Skim milk is particularly good, and he should also have all the alfalfa pasture or hay he wishes. Roots or cooked potatoes are also good. If he is stunted even for a short time, his value will be permanently injured. When a year old, he should weigh 300 to 400 pounds.

**Plenty of Food Needed.**  
After reaching full growth, when not in service, he should be given bulky feeds to keep him full, satisfied, and in good condition, but that will not put on fat. Alfalfa, roots, and a small amount of grain will do very well. When the breeding season approaches, the grain feed should be gradually increased, giving a mixture the same as when he was growing, and the bulkier alfalfa and roots should be gradually decreased. A sire neither fat nor thin produces the best results, so the animal should be put in perfect condition and good feed.

**Food in Breeding Season.**  
During the breeding season only sufficient succulent feeds such as alfalfa and roots should be given to keep his bowels in good condition. A full supply of these at this time may make him infertile. A fully matured boar produces the most vigorous pigs and may be profitably kept for several years if properly fed and handled. He should not be used for much service until at least 12 months old. His tusks should be cut or knocked up whenever they show considerable size.

The boar should have a day's rest after every second or third day of service; he should serve a sow but once; and two sows a day should be the limit. He should be used before being fed. Handled as indicated, a mature boar is sufficient for 50 sows. Dead, weak, or pigs puny at birth result from over service.

**Proper Housing.**  
It should not be forgotten that from a breeding standpoint, the boar is half the herd and should be kept in a comfortable shelter free from rain draughts and wind. A half-acre pasture will give him the daily exercise necessary to keep him healthy and muscular. He will be better natured and easier to handle if allowed to run with the barrows between breeding seasons. If during the breeding season he is allowed to run with the sows, he will weaken himself by over service, and at other times he is apt to injure the sows. He should be trained from the start to the use of the breeding crate, for with it all danger to sow or boar is averted.

## Feed and Management of the Sow and The Effect On Hog Raising

THE sow should be selected, fed and handled to produce large litters of heavy, vigorous pigs. During the first year she should be given feeds that make rapid growth but that do not fatten. Such feeds are milk, alfalfa, and moderate quantities of wheat, peas, barley, milo maize, and shorts. At 12 months, she should be in a thrifty condition, not fat, and should weigh from 300 to 375 pounds. If she is kept healthy by being allowed daily exercise, she may be bred to drop her first litter when she becomes a year old. The gestation period for the sow is 112 days.

**Muscle Making Food.**  
While pregnant, the sow should be given muscle- and bone-making feeds that will develop in the unborn pigs size and strong vital organs. The same feeds are used for this purpose that are required by pigs after weaning. With good alfalfa pasture, only a small amount of grain is needed. The pigs from an underfed sow are stunted while suckling from lack of sufficient milk.

Pig eating is often caused by constipation. While pregnant, or suckling, laxative and bulky feeds, such as pasture or alfalfa hay, should be given the sow to prevent constipation. Exercise and small feeds of roots are good to keep the bowels in condition. Heavy feeding of roots often causes weak or

dead pigs at birth, and feeding frozen roots may cause abortion.

**Strains Are Fatal.**

A blow or strain of any kind to the body of the pregnant sow is apt to produce pigs dead at birth, or pigs born the wrong way, with consequent injury or death to the sow. Pregnant sows that had to step over a six-inch board in passing through an opening between their yard and pasture produced many dead pigs at farrowing, some of the sows dying from trouble while giving birth. In other cases dead pigs and sows resulted from the sows having to step eight inches from the ground to the pen; from having to pass over a ridged field to get to a pea field. A boar or horses or cattle in the same lot with sows that are bred will often knock them around and bring the same trouble. If more than 5 to 10 hogs are allowed to sleep together, crowding in cold weather may result in losses at farrowing time. Pregnant sows should also not be allowed to run wild fattening hogs.

**Keep Breeding Records.**  
A breeding record should be kept, and the sow should be placed in a farrowing pen connected with a dry yard large enough for exercise two weeks before the pigs are expected. The feed should be somewhat reduced, and her bowels kept loose. If the sows are managed

to farrow at nearly the same time the owner can watch them with more care. Only enough straw for comfort and dryness should be provided, else the little pigs may become tangled in the deep straw and crushed by the sow or die from exposure. In severe weather, the pigs should be placed as fast as they come into a basket in which a blanket is laid over a hot stone, and when they are warm and dry they should be taken to their mother and each placed at a teat. Then cover the mother and pigs, and if during the first 48 hours a pig strays from its mother it should be put back against her body, where it will be warm.

**Must Have Water Plenty.**  
The sow must be given all the water she wants for the first 24 hours after the pigs are born, but no grain. The water should have the chill taken off in cold weather. For the following three or four days small amounts of grain and milk and plenty of water should be given. The feed is then gradually increased until, when the pigs are three weeks old, the sow is given all the feed she will consume. Let the pigs have exercise and sunshine from birth, but do not let them get damp or exposed to the wind.

**Milk Producing Food.**  
A strong milk flow is forced if the sow is given a warm, rich slop, or other milk producing feed just after her pigs are born. This may cause the pigs to drink too much, producing diarrhoea, which often kills them. Then they cannot take all the milk, causing the sow's udder to become inflamed and caked. The suckling of the pigs under this condition causes her such intense pain that she may jump up in desperation and eat them. Overfeeding and lack of exercise causes the thumps in young pigs.

Good sows improve several years in number and size of the pigs they have at a litter. If the beginner will arrange to have the pigs born in May, the sows can be turned on pasture soon after farrowing. The sow may be bred three days after the pigs are weaned. When mature sows are to have two litters a year, breeding the sow October 12 will cause them to farrow about February 1. Allowing the pigs to suckle nine weeks, they will be weaned about April 4, and the sow may be bred three days later. The second litter will then be born about July 25, and if suckled ten weeks, will be ready to wean about October 7.

## SOCIETY WOMAN A NOTED FISHER

Mrs. J. A. Cruikshank, who has become known as the "fisher aristocrat" of Long Beach, L. I. Mrs. Cruikshank doesn't have to fish and at first glance, or first introduction, it might be taken for granted that she would have a maid



or a butler to attend to fishing matters. Nevertheless she is known as one of the famous fishers on the beach and has made some record ones, only captured after all of the fishermen's art had been exercised. A twenty-man fight with a whopping channel bass recently has spread her fame.

## How to Save Irrigation Water

By Wm. L. Rockwell, U. S. Irrigation Expert for Texas.

Over a very large portion of the great state of Texas water is of incalculable value. Millions of acres of fertile land now almost unproductive, lie awaiting the magic touch of water, the one thing necessary with cultivation, to make it bloom and bring forth as a garden.

Under the ordinary methods of the use of water in irrigation, not to exceed 40 percent of water diverted from the source of supply is made available to growing plants. In the arid section of good land even without water is practically valueless, while such land with a sufficient supply of moisture that may be available when needed will bring returns under intelligent tillage, amounting to a fair rate of interest on an investment of hundreds of dollars per acre. Means to effect a reduction in this enormous loss of wealth to the farmer and the state should be sought and earnestly applied by every one interested in practical irrigation.

**Reducing the Loss.**  
If a 60 percent loss can be reduced to one of 20 percent, the working capital of the irrigator will have been doubled. If the water used on one acre can be economical methods be made sufficient for two acres, the productive value of the investment will have been increased one hundred fold. If the irrigator company desires to know how much water is necessary to irrigate a given acreage, it is necessary that the supply furnished be measured. That the irrigator may reduce the amount of water used to a minimum and insure the largest returns, it is necessary that he know how much moisture is being applied at each irrigation, as well as the number of applications. The amount used at each irrigation must be measured. That irrigators may become somewhat familiar with the units, equivalent value of the investment will be measurement of water for irrigation a list of such follows:

**Some Water Figures.**  
A second foot or one cubic foot per second is an amount equal to the discharge of a stream one foot wide, one foot deep and flowing at an average velocity of one foot per second. This is the statutory unit of measurement of water for irrigation in several of the western states.

One second-foot equals 40 California miners inches (law of 1901.)  
One second-foot equals 28.4 Colorado miners inches.  
One second-foot equals 40 Arizona miners inches.  
One second-foot equals 7.48 gallons per second.  
One second-foot equals 488.8 gallons per minute.

One acre foot equals the amount of water necessary to cover an acre one foot deep.  
One second foot flowing 24 hours equals nearly two acre feet, exactly 1982 acre feet.  
One second foot equals one acre inch per hour.  
One acre inch equals 27,154 gallons.  
1.35 second feet for 24 hours equals 1,000,000 gallons.  
One second foot flowing one year equals 888 acre feet.  
One second foot flowing for 150 days without loss, will cover 150 acres two feet deep.

**For Pumping Plant.**  
One cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 pounds.  
One horsepower equals 550 foot pounds per second.  
One horsepower equals 746 watts.  
One horsepower equals one second foot falling 8.80 feet.  
One and one-half horsepower equals about one kilowatt.  
To calculate the horsepower required—approximately—multiply the lift in feet by the second foot of water required, and divide the product by 11. This gives 80 percent of the actual horsepower, or the horsepower necessary to be applied to a water wheel delivering 80 percent of the power applied.

## A Woman

who cooks with

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## Figure It Out For Yourself

We'll take it for granted that you use a coal stove. Now, how many hours do you spend in the kitchen? Figure it up. How long does it take you to get those three meals a day? How long to bring in coal and kindling? How long to wipe up the dirt left by smoke and soot and coal dust? How long to clean out the ashpan? How long do you have to sit in the hot kitchen of an afternoon waiting for your bread to bake?

Figure it all up—then, consider. If you had a gas range you would have no coal or kindling to bring in, neither would you have any ashes to carry out. If you had a gas range you could put your bread in the oven and leave it there without watching—go out on the front porch or your neighbor's porch with a placid mind.

Think of all the minutes you now spend in the kitchen that you could spend on the front porch.

But, think again. If you had a gas range you would cook your meals in just one-half the time it now takes you. Because, the heat of a gas flame is so much more intense than that of a coal fire.

And then, think of this. When you use a coal stove, you must go into the kitchen early, in order to "start the fire" so it will be hot enough when you are ready to use it. You don't have to do that with a gas range. Turn a valve, strike a match, and there's your HOT fire immediately.

Figure it for yourself, the amount of time you should have for rest and amusement that you must now spend in the kitchen.

# El Paso Gas & Electric Company

## Agricultural Notes Of the Rio Grande Valley

M. L. CADWALLADER does not believe in planting wheat or oats as a nurse-crop for alfalfa. Some argue that it is better to cut wheat or oats than weeds in a newly sown alfalfa field, but Mr. Cadwallader plants 15 pounds alfalfa seed for a stand and 15 pounds extra for a nurse-crop and consequently cuts neither grain nor weeds but pure alfalfa.

**Skunk a Suicide.**  
A skunk got into one of Dr. Moore's brooder houses recently on his ranch down the valley and killed 152 one-month-old Rhode Island Reds by biting them through the head and injured the remaining eight so severely that they had to be killed. The skunk was still in the house the next morning, having gorged itself with so much blood that it could not again climb the fetted wire fence, and was easily killed.

The corn and beet crop in both upper and lower valleys is a failure in most cases due to the shortage of water in the river and lack of rain. There are cases, however, where corn was planted in good silt or sandy loam soils and the land thoroughly irrigated before planting that it is continuing to make steady growth. It is by no means unusual to mature a corn crop here even in dry years, if the soil is good and the land is properly irrigated. The planting, too, must be done when the soil has dried just sufficiently to allow easy plowing. With a generous reservoir of moisture in the ground and a three to four inch mulch over the seed, conditions are ideal.

**Watermelon Planting.**  
A native farmer at Ysleta who years after has success in farming plants watermelons, as follows: The land is well irrigated and allowed to dry to the point where it can be easily handled with a small turning plow. It is then plowed and well harrowed and smoothed. After five or six days the moisture has withdrawn some three or four inches.

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below the surface and has become practically stationary. He then takes a hoe and plants the watermelon seed in the moist soil. He prefers the hoe to sowing the seed as he plows because a more even stand is thereby secured. Before the vines begin to run, he plows furrows for irrigation between the rows and ordinarily brings the crop to maturity with but one irrigation.

**Preserving Fruits.**  
Prof. J. E. Mundell, of the New Mexico college of agriculture, has devised a method for preserving fruit in their natural state so that it may be used for class room work as well as for exhibition at fairs. He coats peaches, for instance with hot paraffin in such a way that a thin film envelops the fruit completely. When ready for use in his classes in the fall and winter, he needs only to clip the peach into hot water to present a well-preserved and natural specimen to the students for study. This method should make it possible for our farmers to exhibit early as well as late peaches at our fair this fall.

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ADDITIONAL DRY FARM  
NEWS ON NEXT PAGE.  
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